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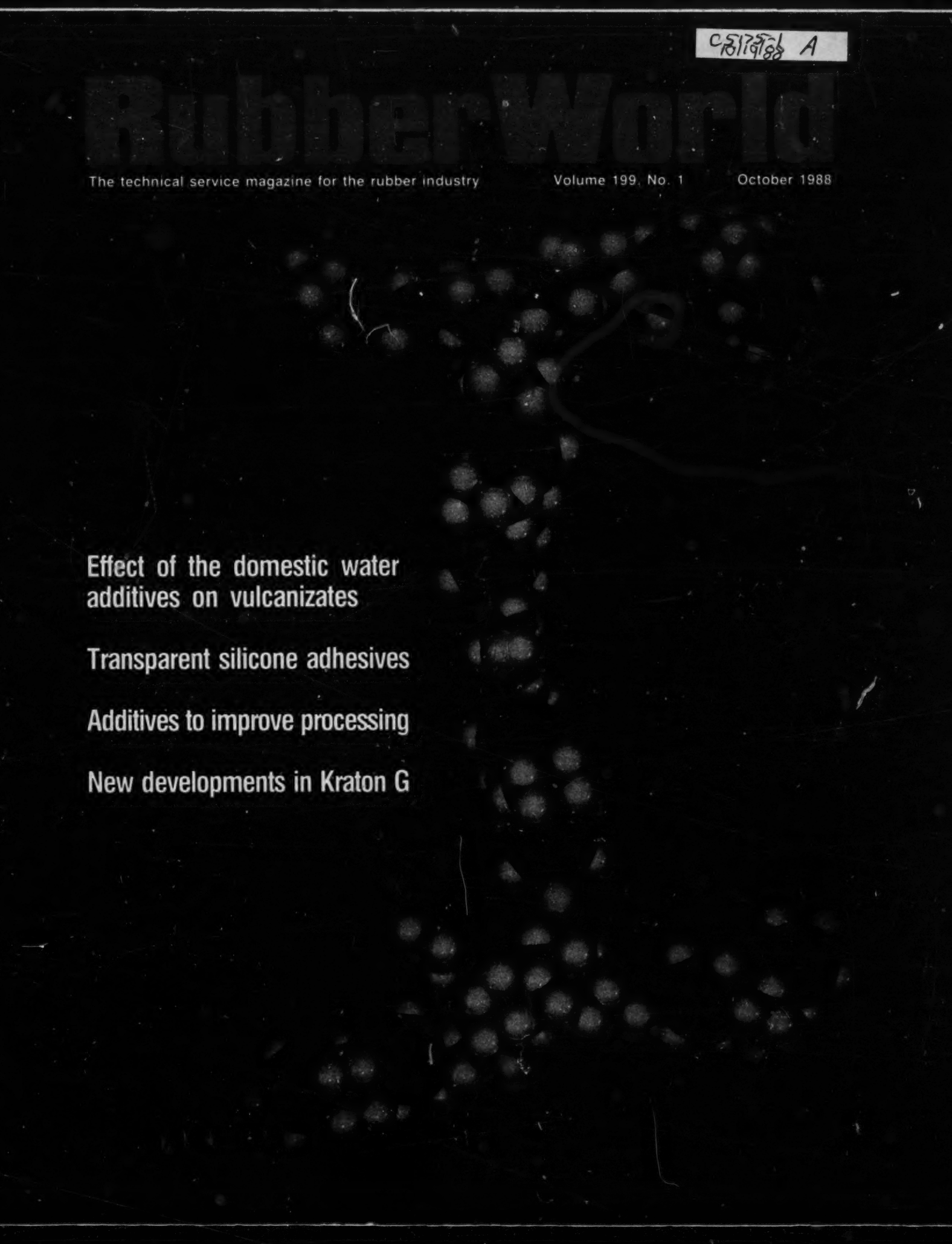

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Transparent silicone adhesives

Additives to improve processing

New developments in Kraton G

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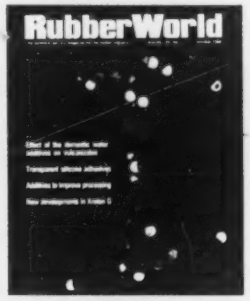

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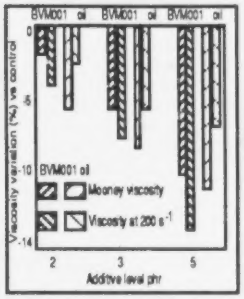

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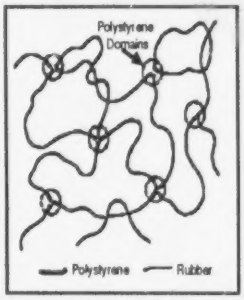

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Cover photo courtesy of The University of Akron Polymer Science Institute

A Lippincott & Peto Publication

Editorial

I have a couple of requests this month. Both require you being conscientious. The first deals with some feedback we would like to get from you. It concerns expanding the duties or changing the job description of the executive director for the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society. This question comes up every so often and I would like to bring this debate out into the open.Other technical societies give much more responsibility to their directors, some don't have executive directors. I am asking you to write in and voice your opinion one way or the other.

The incorporation of the "Mini Expo" at this month's technical meeting in Cincinnati is a strong indication of the growth of the division in what has been a period of shakeouts, buyouts, takeovers, reorganizations and closings. To think of the growth the expositions have gone through since their inception and now off-year mini-expos with over 100 exhibitors belies the tag of mature that is placed with this industry. But, with all of this growth and change, the division' structure has stayed pretty much the same. Is this OK? Should the division reorganize like most of the members' companies have done? Write us.

The second request involves asking those responsible for their company's listings in various directories to please respond. We publish a number of directories throughout the course of the year. This means considerable time is spent collecting and verifying data, and listening to pleas for extensions. We are usually lenient on the tardy ones, we want the information. Extra forms, duplicate forms and questionnaires will be sent, just ask. Many do, some don't. Then after publication the calls come from those not included, or those with information that was incorrect, usually from not having their listing updated.

This request has another purpose. Our sister publication, *Automotive Polymers & Design* will be publishing a directory issue in December. A problem we're having is that the responses from the rubber parts manufacturers is not what it should be. Because we publish *Rubber World*, we know there are more original equipment rubber parts suppliers out there than have replied to our questionnaire. Granted our mailing list probably didn't include 100% of the companies in this segment of the industry, but it's close.If you're a rubber parts supplier to the original equipment automotive industry you should be in this issue. Mail back your questionnaire. If you didn't get one, please call our offices and we'll send you one immediately.

Don R. Smith
Editor

RubberWorld

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Business Briefs

Acquisitions, expansions

Du Pont said it was expanding production of dibasic ester and is modifying a plant that produces paraphenylene diisocyanate and trans 1, 4 cyclohexane diisocyanate. The DBE capacity increase will be made possible by a dibasic acid plant expansion presently under construction in Victoria, TX. The DBA increase is for 20 million pounds annually with more than 85% of that converted to DBE. The plant modification is scheduled for completion by year-end, with production of developmental quantities to begin the first quarter of next year. Commercial production is projected to begin by 1990.

Gates Rubber is investing $17 million over the next three years on a new synchronous belt factory in Dumfries, Scotland. The new 100,000 sq. ft. building will house production, warehousing, development facilities and offices. Production is expected to begin during the summer of 1989. Gates also purchased **Spun Steel, Inc.**, Bloomfield Hills, MI, a manufacturer of pulleys, tensioners and accessory drive systems for the North American auto industry with plants in Dothan, AL and Strathroy and Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Dow Chemical will pay $366 million to acquire **Essex Chemical Corp.** after the Essex board of directors approved the deal. Essex manufactures adhesives and sealants primarily for the automotive industry and also makes generic drugs, industrial chemicals and organic intermediates.

Ausimont, Inc. will open a new technical service center near Morristown, NJ later this year. The facility will support its Dutral and Tecnoflon elastomer customers in North America.

Standard Products will open a 50,000 sq. ft. plant in Columbia, SC to manufacture moldings for automobile doors and windows. Production is scheduled to start in early 1989.

Goodyear dedicated a $15.6 million composites technical center in Jackson, OH. The 21,000 sq. ft. addition to the company's automotive reinforced plastics plant will be used for development and manufacture of large exterior body panels for the transportation industry.

Shell Chemical has opened a Detroit polymers office to serve its automotive customers. The company consolidated the commercial marketing of its polymer compounds in the office which include its epoxy resins, polypropylene and thermoplastic elastomers. Shell is planning to add a laboratory dedicated to elastomer assistance.

Hoechst Celanese is building a $9.4 million plant for the manufacture of liquid crystal polymers at its Shelby, NC site with start up scheduled for the middle of next year. The company said the $13 million expansion of its compounding facilities at Shelby should come on stream in mid-1989 as well. The company also announced two expansions slated for its Bishop, TX acetal copolymer facility that will bring capacity to 170 million pounds annually.

Myers Industries acquired **Plastic Parts Inc.** of Shelbyville, KY, a manufacturer of custom-engineered structural foam components used in commercial, industrial and electronic parts.

Cyprus Minerals will acquire **Windsor Minerals**, the talc-producing subsidiary of **Johnson & Johnson**. Included in the sale are two mills, several mines and reserves in Vermont, and a talc mine and mill in California.

RMA rubber report through June (figures in metric tons)

Total new rubber	YTD 1988	YTD 1987	% chg.
New rubber available	1,747,361	1,650,686	5.9
Imports	583,599	563,710	3.5
Exports	297,982	251,200	18.6
Apparent consumption	1,430,777	1,390,756	2.9
Total natural rubber			
Imports	440,512	419,518	5.0
Exports	25,324	17,884	41.6
Apparent consumption	417,199	397,822	4.9
Total synthetic rubber			
Production	1,163,762	1,088,976	7.1
Imports	143,087	144,192	-.8
Exports	272,658	233,316	16.9
Apparent consumption	1,013,573	992,929	2.1
Total SBR			
Production	458,818	421,932	9.0
Imports	44,418	41,289	7.6
Exports	100,359	89,439	12.2
Apparent consumption	386,362	379,506	1.8
Total nitrile			
Production	38,878	35,733	8.8
Imports	8,631	7,446	15.9
Exports	8,290	6,993	18.6
Apparent consumption	38,475	33,636	14.4
Polybutadiene			
Production	202,634	185,728	9.1
Imports	44,015	44,660	-1.4
Exports	33,664	32,772	2.7
Apparent consumption	206,827	196,095	5.5
Ethylene-propylene			
Production	130,673	129,062	1.3
Imports	6,272	3,035	106.7
Exports	29,168	23,881	22.1
Apparent consumption	112,851	102,196	10.4
Butyl, polychloroprene, polyisoprene, silicone and other synthetic elastomers			
Production	331,758	314,520	5.5
Imports	39,751	47,762	-16.8
Exports	101,177	80,231	26.1
Apparent consumption	269,056	281,497	-4.4

←Circle 4 on card

Business Briefs

Bayer Hispania is expanding its methyl diisocyanate plant in Tarragona, Spain by 50,000 metric tons annually.

Parkway Products, Cincinnati, OH, is expanding its Boone County, KY manufacturing plant by 30,000 sq. ft. The $1 million project also includes the purchase of specialized machinery and equipment for the manufacture of composite and advanced engineering components for the aerospace industry.

Mobay purchased **Conesco Corp.**, Berlin, CT, a producer of polycarbonate film for industrial purposes.

Iwasaki Electric of Tokyo, Japan acquired **Energy Sciences**, Woburn, MA, a supplier of electron beam equipment used in converting, crosslinking and other industrial applications.

SP Control has been established in Stow, OH to provide a participative quality control audit program for users of tensometers and ASTM method D2084 curemeters.

Firestone Building Products is relocating its headquarters and technical center to a new 31,250 sq. ft. building in Carmel, IN. The company is also constructing a 83,000 sq. ft. distribution center in Lawrenceville, GA.

International Protective Coatings, Ocean, NJ, has acquired **Quelcor**, the fire protection division of **Thomas & Betts** located in Doylestown, PA.

Contracts, licenses

Goodyear and **Urethane Technologies International**, Irvine, CA have agreed to jointly develop tire and automotive products using polyether urethane materials. Goodyear will initially use the UTI developed technology for the production of pressed-on industrial solid tires for lift trucks. The five-year agreement provides for application of the technology in non-tire products.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is supplying **Goodyear** 32 passenger car hydraulic tire curing presses for its Lawton, OK plant. Delivery of the ¥1 billion order will begin in February 1989.

Petro Oil and Gas has entered into joint venture agreements with Chinese partners to develop and operate a plant for the production of polyurethane and other polymeric materials in Guandong Province.

The Laredo Proving Grounds in Laredo, TX have been added to services offered by **Standards Testing Laboratories**, Massillon, OH. STL has been designated by **Uniroyal Goodrich** as the marketing agency for the testing site.

IISRP North American rubber consumption (revised forecast - 000 metric tons)

	1987	1988
Styrene butadiene, dry	815	824
Styrene butadiene, latex	45	45
Carboxylated SBR latex	480	489
Polybutadiene	428	438
Ethylene-propylene	205	224
Nitrile, solid	65	71
Nitrile, latex	7	7
Polychloroprene	84	86
Other synthetics	457	471
Total	2583	2655
Natural Rubber	873	898
Total new rubber	3456	3553
% synthetic	74.4	74.7

Financial statements

Ausimont reported a second quarter net income of $15.7 million on sales of $189.7 million.

Cyprus Minerals reported second quarter earnings of $42.9 million on revenues of $329.4 million.

Eagle-Picher announced third quarter net income of $9 million on sales of $189 million.

GenCorp reported third quarter net income of $19 million on sales of $473 million. GenCorp's Automotive sales for the quarter were $83 million.

The Standard Products Co.'s reported $508.33 million in sales for fiscal 1988 included $360 million from its automotive sales. Subsidiaries **Oliver Rubber** contributed $72 million in sales and **Silent Channel Products** of the U.K. added $32 million for the year.

Markets, news

The **International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers** revised its 1988 forecast for North American synthetic rubber consumption, reflecting the continued strong rebound of SR that began in 1987. In January, the IISRP forecasted a 1.5% decline based on an expected general slowing of the economy and declining automobile production. But based on the increased general consumer demand across all sectors and a rise in exports resulting from the U.S. dollar's continuing competitiveness, prompted the IISRP to revise its forecast to show a 2.8% growth for this year. The institute said all rubber types will show gains, with ethylene-propylene and nitrile rubbers the strongest performers. Their consumption is expected to rise more than 9% over 1987. Styrene-butadiene, which accounts for nearly one-third of all SR use, should gain more than 1%.

H.A. Astlett & Co. predicts greater volatility in the months ahead for pricing of natural rubber. Currently prices remain above the INRO "must sell" range but the buffer stock manager has little rubber to sell. The doubling of demand for concentrated latex, used in the manufacture of examination gloves, temporarily dried up supplies of latex based grades of dry rubbers, resulting in big price jumps. Adjustments by producers have provided the market with adequate supplies, the company said.